

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



**38th Annual RARSFest:
Saturday April 3, 2010**

Details on page 5.

RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

**RARSFest Dinner
Announcement by Selene
Montgomery KG4RMT**

RARSFEST 2010 is Saturday, April 3, 2010 in the Expo Building on the NC State Fairgrounds. Once again, the club will sponsor a supper on Friday, April 2, 2010 for the dealers and vendors at the same location to thank them for their participation. All RARS members and their families are invited as well.

RARS will furnish fried chicken, pork barbecue, slaw, green beans, and hush puppies. If possible, all members are asked to bring salads, vegetables and casseroles to add to the 2 serving tables. Please bring the food around 6:30 P.M. to the Expo Center (next to the Jim Graham Building). The tables will be near the front of the main exhibit area and will be covered in red tablecloths.

Please join us for the dinner. If you have any questions, email me (kg4rmt@arrl.net) or call 577-1254. Thank you for your help.

Next RARS Meeting: April 6

7:30 PM: "Trilateration and Modulation: The GPS Connection" by Al Sadowski AH6LS.
The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

RARS OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

April Birthdays

Hyeonu	KJ4QNV	4/2
Ray	K2HYD	4/2
Roger	KB4FEU	4/2
Luke	W7XQ	4/2
Bob	W4TTX	4/3
Mark	KJ4LDD	4/7
Henry	WB2AGA	4/8
Lawrence Carringer		4/9
Dennis	NC4DK	4/10
Sam	KI4SED	4/11
Bob	K2QJ	4/11
Jim	KB4BZ	4/12
Ian	N0IAN	4/13
Cindy	KB8LVU	4/15
Dick	KB1HIW	4/17
Kirk	KI4RK	4/19
John	W4WWD	4/20
Glen	K1GW	4/22
Neal	N4HAF	4/23
Dave	KG4OPZ	4/24
Don	WA4AVU	4/26
TC	KJ4LKF	4/27
Joe	KT4JOE	4/27

New RARS Members

Luke Sheridan	W7XQ
Scott Lewis	KJ4BPV
Grady Barnes	KJ4RZU

Upcoming Hamfests

4/3 RARSFest - ARRL NC State Convention
Raleigh, NC
<http://rars.org/hamfest>

4/10 Wilmington Swap Meet
Wilmington, NC
<http://ac4rc.org>

4/10 Mobile Hamfest
Mobile, AL
<http://w4iax.net/hamfest.htm>

4/11 Springfest
Chesapeake, VA
<http://www.hrspringfest.com>

4/17 Catawba Valley Hamfest
Morganton, NC
<http://www.cvhamfest.com>

February 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 480
Traffic: 34/24
Minutes: 520
Sessions: 28

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 150
Minutes: 750
Sessions: 12

now on
SATURDAY!

38th Annual

RARSFest 2010

**Hamfest, Computers,
Huge Electronic Flea Market &
ARRL NC State Convention**

sponsored by the
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



“The Raleigh Hamfest”

Saturday, April 3rd

8 AM to 3:30 PM

**Exposition Center
State Fairgrounds
Raleigh, NC**

Tickets: \$8
(\$7 advance)

order online at:
www.rars.org/hamfest



Pictures from RARSFest 2007 in the new Expo Center

The Expo Center location is great!
Everybody loves the change to Saturday!
Attendance was up again, so announcing

RARSFest 2010: Saturday, April 3rd!

Please help us spread the word and keep on growing!



- ◆ **Hamfest Prizes:**
Preregistration Prize
Hourly prizes from 11-2
Grand Prize Drawing: 3 PM
- ◆ **New Equipment Dealers**
(all major brands)
- ◆ **VE License Testing - 9 AM Sharp!**
- ◆ **Forums and Meetings**
- ◆ **Contests**
- ◆ **QSL Card Field Checking available**
- ◆ **Special Event Station you can operate**
- ◆ **Hands-on construction projects**
- ◆ **Youth Lounge:** meeting area, activities and prizes for young hams and non-hams
- ◆ **Free NC Fairgrounds Flea Market**
huge general-merchandise Flea Market on the grounds
- ◆ **Also at the Fairgrounds:**
Sports Memorabilia Show, Robotics Competition
movie theater, shopping, NC Museum of Art nearby
- ◆ **Free Parking**
- ◆ **Friday Night Supper for Vendors**

**extra prize tickets
available at the
fest for \$1 each**

**activity details at:
www.rars.org/hamfest**

- ◆ **50,000 square feet of air-conditioned indoor space!**

Sorry, the Fairgrounds does not permit outdoor sales/tailgating

- ◆ **Drive-in load/unload**

Friday afternoon, Saturday 6 to 7:30 AM

Fairgrounds regulations prohibit weapons,
pornographic material and pets in the Expo Center
building. No food or drink may be sold or donated by
attendees in the hamfest building at any time.

NO SMOKING

RARS Tech Class a Success!

By Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA



Above: The class listened intently to Mike Murphy's instruction. Photo by NC4VA.

RARS Technician License Preparation Class will be on the air soon! Get ready to welcome them.

Held on March 23 and 30, the Tech Prep class attracted 30 participants from Triangle area and from as far away as Moore County. During the introductions, folks expressed various reasons for joining the class. Some said a friend made ham radio sound fun so they wanted to try it. Some indicated they wanted to assist with emergency communications during disasters. One gentleman wanted HF privileges to use when sailing up and down the

coast. The father-in-law of one participant joked that his new daughter-in-law had to get her license as part of a pre-nuptial agreement!

Instructor Mike Murphy WA4BPJ based his interactive PowerPoint instruction upon the ARRL Ham Radio Manual; during break time, Virginia Enzor NC4VA put folks on the air at a portable radio station and explained about QSL cards. Justin Pinnix AJ4MJ and Howard Goodman N4KYW answered the NC4VA's call to speak with those who were not "mic shy". Jacob Jaskolka KJ4AWR assisted during break time to answer participants' ham radio related questions.

The W5YIVE team, headed by Joe White WA4GIR and Liz White KO4CK, also included Karl Bowman W4CHX, Dennis Mason AJ4HK, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Cliff Broughton W4FT, and Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

Right: Soon-to-be ham Jim Fricchione was a natural at the mic while speaking with Justin Pinnix AJ4MJ. Photo by NC4VA.



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Above: Happy folks waited for their CSCEs. Photo by NC4VA.

Listen for new call signs on the air and congratulate the following new hams: A. Boris, Donald R. Carek, Ralph J. Elia, Alison D. Feaster, Larry D. Foster, James M. Fricchione, Robert M. Hunt, Rebekah C. Jaskolka, Megaraj L. Kumar, Donald B. Little, Kenneth M. Medlin, Richard L. Mitchell, Andrew C. Morris, Nathan E. Nash, Steven K. Newton, Richard L. Pinkard, Marcia L. Quiller, Dini Roche, Peter R. Rogers, Sonya P. Stead, Lakshman Vijayarajan, Elizabeth I. Whitney, John Scott Wilkerson Jr., and Michael P. Wolfe.

Besides those testing for their Tech License, Kurt Kikendall sat for the Extra exam. He walked away with the upgrade easily as a result of a perfect score!

Special thanks go to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for hosting the class and John Jaskolka N4YRD for the facility arrangements.



Thanks to the hams who volunteered for the March 6th Southeastern Region Odyssey of the Mind tournament. Back row: Lars Soltman KJ4POY, Dick Orander KD4ISC, Michael Thurman KB7NLA, Al Nickel KE4IHX, Art Katz W2JNW, Joanna George KE4QOZ, Brian Young KA9QJT. Front row: Phil Cunningham AE4PC, Paul Lukosius N9PL, Dan Sears KD4AGQ, Jay Diepenbrock KM4EP, John Snellen AI4RT. Not pictured: Rhett George KE4HIH.

Repeater News

Column by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, RARS Repeater Chairman

RARS "Bayleaf" site is back on the air! It's out site, but the old Ericsson repeater on 443.625 MHz, 88.5 tone. That will be on the air from Bayleaf (on the 540 Beltline between Creedmore and Six Forks Road) until we get our own 444.525 machine back up. Chuk KB4MDZ just got it on the air this afternoon, and it seems to be working very well. I was hitting it with a 100 milliwatt HT from north Cary. At 250 feet AGL, it's not a wide coverage machine, but should work well over northern Wake County and most of Raleigh. All hams (especially all RARS members) are welcome to use the machine, so dial it in and talk!

PCRN 224.16 (82.5 tone) is fixed! The monster PCRN 220 repeater is back and working better than ever. This machine is at the 1800 foot level of one of the WRAL towers. It's spent the past year limping with a bad receiver - actually a bad receive antenna, as it uses separate antennas. The coax "phasing harness" on the antenna was full of water when Murray WA4DAN took it down. The antenna was replaced, and then so was the whole repeater, with hardware made by Tait.

One thing to be aware of - the transmit antenna is pretty well omnidirectional, but the receive antenna is shadowed to the south. We don't have a lot of experience with stations out that way yet, but we expect to hear some weak signals south of town. But I was working it with my HT on 15 milliwatts from Durham today. Thanks to Murray and Danny K4ITL for getting this PCRN machine back up to snuff.

Finally, the PCRN 147.195 has changed frequency - it's now on 145.21 MHz (82.5 tone). This machine is at 1200 feet on a WRAL tower. 21 gives it a little more elbow room from co-channel neighbors. The South Wake ARC uses this repeater for their nets (nightly at 7:30 PM), but it's open for all to use. It seems to be working very well.

Did You Know?

RARS now has a Facebook Fan page. Check it out by searching for "Raleigh Amateur Radio Society" on www.Facebook.com.
Become a fan of RARS on Facebook today!

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

StormFest 2010

Sponsored by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Saturday April 10, 2010 from 9am – 4pm

The National Weather Service (NWS) in cooperation with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences will hold a Severe Storms Day allowing everyone interested the opportunity to experience and learn more about severe storms in North Carolina. NWS staff members, local chief meteorologists from WRAL, ABC 11, NBC 17 and News 14, researchers, and storm chasers will all be on hand. Emergency officials and the American Red Cross will be available all day providing demonstrations and education material for adults and children.

In addition the NWS will present three SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter training programs to help participants understand the warning process, severe thunderstorms and how to become a storm spotter.

National Weather Service SKYWARN Training BASIC SKYWARN 9:30 am – 10:45 am & 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm ADVANCED SKYWARN 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The following topics will be covered...

- how and why buildings fail in high winds
- thunderstorm development and severity
- recognition of storm/cloud elements
- anticipating storm motion, intensity and severity based on cloud structure
- lightning dynamics and threats

There is no cost to attend!

Location:
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
11 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC



For more information contact:

Jeff Orrock (National Weather Service) Jeff.Orrock@noaa.gov (919) 515-8209 ext.223 or
Kari Wouk (NC Museum of Natural Sciences) kari.wouk@ncdenr.gov

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StormFest 2010 Schedule of Events

Presentations:

Auditorium:

9:30 – 10:45 am	BASIC SKYWARN Weather Spotter Class (NWS)
11 – 11:45 am	VORTEX / Storm Chasing (Dr. Parker NCSU)
noon – 12:30pm	Tornado Damage Surveys / How the NWS Classifies Tornadoes
1pm - 1:45pm	You Ask The Experts: WRAL, ABC 11, NBC 17, News 14 Meteorologists
2:30pm - 4pm	BASIC SKYWARN Weather Spotter Class

Level A Classroom:

2:30pm – 4pm	Advanced SKYWARN Weather Spotter Class
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Windows On The World: (Red Cross presentations)

10:15 – 10:45 am	Three steps everyone needs to prepare for disaster
11:15 – noon	How to make a complete preparedness kit
1:15 – 1:45 pm	How to make a complete preparedness kit
2:15 – 2:45 pm	Three steps everyone needs to prepare for disaster

Other Presentations:

WRAL: "Twist of Fate" documentary
WRAL: "Remembering Hurricane Floyd"
ABC 11: Storm Footage of Recent Tornadoes
ABC 11: You be the weatherperson
News 14: What to do when severe weather strikes
NBC 17: Severe Storms

Presentation Descriptions:

VORTEX / Storm Chasing - On Friday June 5, 2009, the NCSU VORTEX2 team intercepted a tornadic supercell near La Grange, Wyoming. The teams launched weather balloons around the storm. The Doppler on Wheels also intercepted the storm. Come hear about the research side of tornado chasing and the team's experiences.

You Ask The Experts – Chief Meteorologists Greg Fishel (WRAL), Chris Hohmann (ABC 11), Wes Hohenstein (NBC 17) and Gary Stephenson (News 14) will be on stage discussing how and why they become meteorologist, their storm experiences and answering your questions.

Three steps to prepare for disaster & How to make a complete preparedness kit – The American Red Cross will provide vital information on how to prepare for disasters at home and work.

Hands on displays provided by:

National Weather Service	Emergency Response Vehicles
WRAL	American Meteorological Society
NEWS 14	North Carolina State Climate Office
ABC 11	StormStudy
NBC 17	Wake Community Emergency Response Team
SKYWARN Amateur Radio	NC Museum of Natural Sciences
American Red Cross	North Carolina State University VORTEX Group
NC Baptist Men	Wake / Raleigh Emergency Services
Salvation Army	

February 16, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Karl W4CHX, Neil N4HAF (guest), Greg KE4PAX, Chuck K4HF, Justin AJ4MJ, John AI4RT, Don WA4AVU, Steve KJ4BX

Apologies: Charles WB4DCM, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM

Call to order: Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM; seven members of the RARS Board were present establishing a quorum for voting.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the RARS Board meeting on January 19, 2010 were approved. Karl W4CHX will check recent issues of the Exciter to make sure that recent minutes from the RARS Board meetings and RARS (members) meetings have been published.

Vice President's report: Justin AJ4MJ reported that the cost of food and refreshments for the February RARS meeting was \$34.00; and, \$27.00 in cash donations were collected during the meeting. He indicated that the following programs would be presented at upcoming RARS meetings: RARSFest Update, RARS Awards and Birthday Party (March, 2010); Receiver Design (April, 2010); Trilateration and Modulation-the GPS Connection (May, 2010); Field Day Update (June, 2010); and tentatively, Power Supply Design (August, 2010).

Treasurer's report: Greg KE4PAX indicated that RARS has 241 members. He presented a brief overview of our financial situation. The members of the RARS Board reviewed a one-page Treasurer's report.

Secretary's report: No report.

Committee reports

Public Service Director: John AI4RT reported that public service events are posted on the RARS website; the first event is Odyssey of the Mind on March 6, 2010.

Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.

Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): No report. It was noted during discussions that a Technician Class amateur radio licensing class would be taught on March 13 and March 27, with VE testing to following the second session.

Field Day Chair (Mike WA4BPJ): No report.

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FM Repeater Chair: Via email communication, Gary KN4AQ indicated that he had talked to Danny K4ITL about the RARS repeaters recently; Danny K4ITL is aware that the repeaters need to be repaired, but no promises on delivery time could be obtained. Gary KN4AQ is continuing to work with Ken KI4OTO regarding the RARS Repeater Technical Group, including its proposed membership. Finally, it was reported that the “glitch” on the .64 repeater that lowered the audio was a bad connection on a ribbon cable. Jack N6UYB and Gary KN4AQ visited the repeater site and fixed it, but managed to reverse the cable when replacing it, so the audio delay board is not “in-line”. As a result, “squench tails” can be heard.

RARSFest Chair: John AI4RT provided an overview of RARSFest 2010 planning. The planning group is still working on an alternate site for VE testing; additional rooms at the NC State Fairgrounds are expensive. The decision to have an American Red Cross bloodmobile at RARSFest 2010 will be based on the response from RARS members wanting to donate blood. The RARS website needs to be checked to make sure that it describes accurately what Hands-On Activities can be done at RARSFest 2010. Via email communication, Hank K4HM provided information on RARSFest 2010 planning (see section 6p).

Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): No report. During discussions, the RARS Board members noted it was not clear that approval of RARS meeting and RARS Board meeting minutes was required. Karl W4CHX will review the RARS Bylaws for guidance.

Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.

Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): No report.

ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.

At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.

At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.

At-Large Director (Steve KJ4BX): No report.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.

RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR, Liz KO4CK): No report.

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RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Via email communication, Hank K4HM indicated that he had not seen any ARRL Ham Aid Fund donations go through the RARS website; and, that Greg KE4PAX should be able to confirm any donations via PayPal from its transaction reports. With regard to RARSFest 2010: the flyers should go out this week; the flyers are at ASAP Mail Service; an email was received with the estimated postage amount (\$1373.18) that will need to be put in the Bulk Mail account. Selene KG4RMT and Hank K4HM did not attend FROSTFEST, Richmond, VA; therefore, tickets and tables for RARSFest could not be sold. Flyers were made available at HamCation, Orlando, FL. They talked to many of our regular dealers and potential new ones. Of the regulars, all said they were going to attend RARSFest 2010 on Easter Saturday. Pat from ICOM will let us know how many booths will be needed as soon as possible; and, she will arrange for some comic books to be placed in the youth lounge. Author Nancy Williams, NR4RR, needs one booth where she will sell her newest fiction book, "The Agenda 21 Conspiracy"; its main characters are hams and RVers. With regard to the RARS Website: he has had a request to post information about the potential blood drive; he will contact John AI4RT to see how this request should be handled.

Old business:

RARS bank accounts: Greg KE4PAX will be closing the Morgan Stanley bank account; there will be a \$5.00 fee for generating the transfer check; and, the funds (approx \$18,000) will be deposited in the RARS account at Wachovia. Thereafter, he will be looking for an appropriate interest-bearing account for these funds.

Contents of the old filing cabinet: Chuck K4HF has completed the task of sorting its contents. Some of the QSL cards will be given away at the March RARS meeting; important QSL cards will be archived, including those from past RARS members that are deceased (Silent Keys).

New business:

RARS donation for Haiti: After discussion, a motion was made by Justin AJ4MJ and seconded by Steve KJ4BX to send \$250.00 to the ARRL Ham Aid Fund in support of relief efforts in Haiti. The motion passed unanimously. Subsequent discussions focused on modifying the RARS website to provide information for members wanting to make individual donations to the ARRL Ham Aid Fund, but the web page that allowed individuals to make donations via the RARS PayPal links should be "taken down". Karl W4CHX will contact Hank K4HM regarding this matter.

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RARS Repeater Technical Group: See the report from Gary KN4AQ, FM Repeater Chair (section 6e).

Board member's comments: Chuck K4HF provided a list of award recipients that will be recognized at the March RARS meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Karl W4CHX at approximately 9:15 PM

Karl F. Bowman, W4CHX
Recorder

March 2, 2010 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at the First Alliance Church, Buffaloe Rd, Raleigh. There were 49 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by President Karl W4CHX at 7:30 PM. The minutes for the January general meeting and the February Board meeting were published in the EXCITER. A motion was made and seconded to approve those minutes as published. The motion was approved. VP Justin AJ4MJ announced that the April program would be on receiver design; the May program would be GPS/CDMA and spread spectrum techniques; and the June program will be Field Day. Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we have 243 members. Most of our expenses this year have been for RARSFest. We also have purchased 20 license manuals.

The following announcements were made:

- President Karl welcomed our visitors: Mickey Barbour KJ4RZT, Regina Dabrowska SP5SAD, and her husband Chris Dabrowska A45XR.
- The RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, March 9 at the Golden Corral.
- The RARS Board will meet on Tuesday, March 16 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd. All RARS members are invited to attend.
- The after meeting gathering will probably be at Applebee's.
- The ARRL web page has an article about "Emergency Preparedness and FCC Rules". Everyone is encouraged to read that article.

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Comments:

- Chuck K4HF announced that the Piedmont Chapter of QCWA will hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday, March 20 at McCalls Restaurant in Clayton. The program will be on the Logbook of The World. The meeting is open and all are invited to attend.
- John AI4RT Public Service Coordinator announced that Odyssey of the Mind will be this weekend, Saturday March 6 in Chapel Hill. He still needs a few volunteers. April 24 is the MS walk at the RBC Center. Cary High School will have a walk on May 1.
- Selene KG4RMT reminded everyone that the Charlotte Hamfest (now in Concord) will be March 13 and 14.
- Chuck K4HF advised that old RARS QSL cards are on display on the table in the rear of the room as well as plaques from previous activities. All are invited to review those old items.
- President Karl stated that the Technician Class will be given on March 13 and 27 with the exam following the class on the 27. The class fee includes the manual but not the exam.

The door prize was won by KJ4QBT.

President Karl then asked that immediate past President Selene KG4RMT to come to the front. Selene was presented with a plaque thanking her for her service as President of RARS for 2008/2009. Selene, in brief comments, thanked Karl for taking over the VP position and doing an excellent job. She presented Karl with a plaque. Karl presented our Treasurer Greg KE4PAX with a plaque for being the treasurer since 2001. Greg commented he was not sure if this was going to turn into a life time position!

Certificates of Appreciation were presented by President Karl to the following:

- Curt Phillips, W4CP in appreciation for the original idea of the Tarheel Shortwave/Scanner Special Interest Group in 1994.
- Tim Slay, N4IB in appreciation for his great job as ARRL NC Section Manager, 2004 through 2009.
- Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ for the outstanding job leading RARS to a 1st Place Finish in Class 7A of the 2009 ARRL Field Day.
- Cliff Broughton, W4FT for encouraging RARS member participation in the 2009 Field Day, including the weekly Field Day net.
- Charles Swindell, WB4DCM for his equipment and operation assistance in making the RARS 2009 20 meter CW Field Day station a success.

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- Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO for his equipment and operation assistance in making the RARS 2009 20 meter CW Field Day station a success.
- Wilbur Goss, WD4RDT for his operation assistance in making the RARS 2009 20 meter CW Field Day station a success.
- James Marolda, KE4DRN for heading up the RARS Field Day digital communications station for several years.
- Dick Orander, Jr, KD4ISC for heading up the Raleigh MS Tour effort and SAG NCS.
- Jack Foster, N6UYB for participation in several Public Service events.
- Dan Sears, KD4AGQ for participation in several Public Service events.
- Phil Cunningham, AE4PC for participation in several Public Service events.
- Bob Chew, KI4YXM for participation in several Public Service events.
- James, KE6FNW and Diane Staley for their great food appetizers at RARS meetings!
- Clyde Carl, WB2EYC and Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ for their presentation on Electrical Grounding Techniques.
- Bob Conder, K4RLC for his role as ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison in monitoring legislation that could affect amateur radio activities.
- Don Cowden, N8DDK and Justin Pinnix, AJ4MJ for their presentation on Amateur Satellite Communications.

President Karl asked all present to stand who assisted with the Public Service Events in 2009. He asked all present to stand who have ever been a Net Control Station and/or completed Traffic Training. Finally, he asked all present to stand who have ever assisted on the RARS or other Volunteer Examination Teams.

At this point the meeting, we took about a 15 minute break for cake and ice cream to celebrate RARS' birthday.

John AI4RT took the podium and made a presentation on the organization and operation of the RARSFest. He reviewed the operation of the various committees and introduced the committee chairs. It takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers to pull off the RARSFest. All those that help with the RARSFest are invited to a workers' party at Lake Crabtree on May 8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by President Karl at 8:55 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

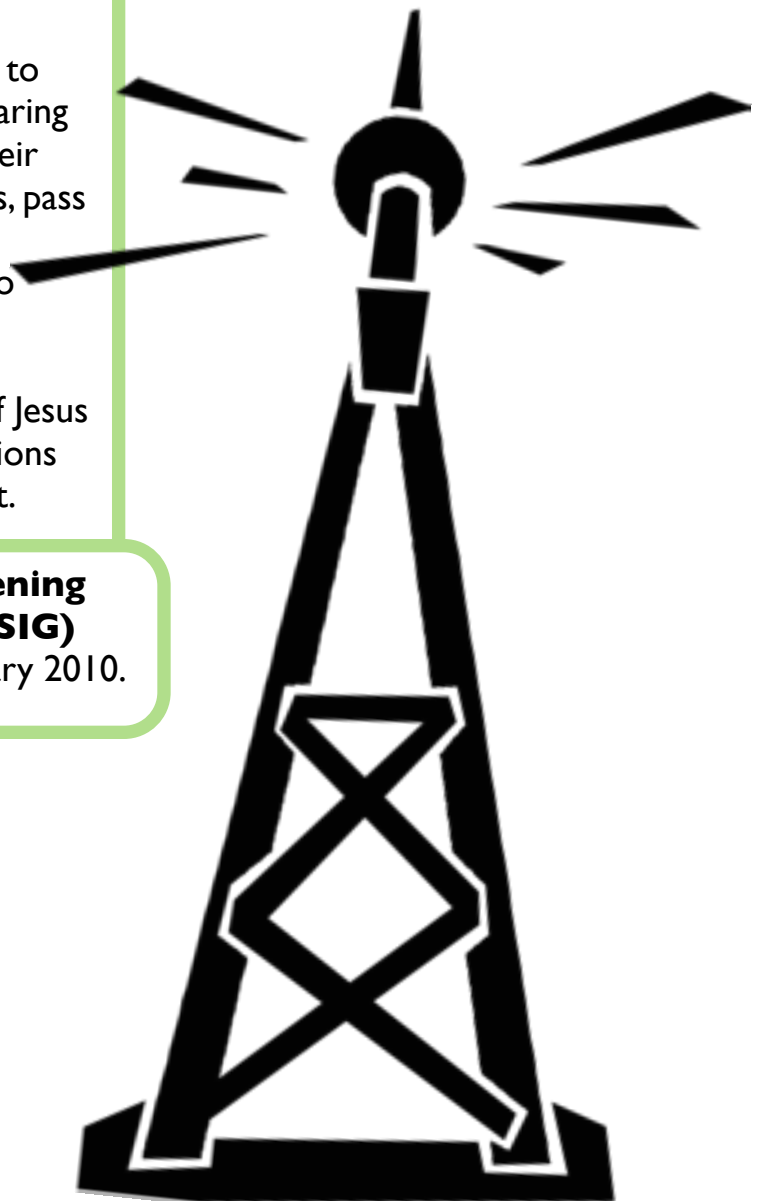
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

April 3: Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training at RARSFest.

April 10: "Severe Storm Day" sponsored by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. See pages 9-10 for details.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

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